

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TRIPOL 00001 021008Z

13

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 AEC-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIEP-01 COME-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-02

NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 RSC-01 SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15

STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-01 /091 W
----- 040140

O R 020920Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1824

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T TRIPOLI 0001

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG LY

SUBJECT: LIBYAN EMBARGO ON OIL EXPORTS TO U.S.

1. WE HAVE NOTED, AS NO DOUBT DEPT HAS, REPORT IN LONDON TIMES (SUMMARIZED IN DEC 31 WIRELESS FILE) THAT LIBYA HAS QUIETLY TOLD OIL COMPANIES OPERATING HERE THAT EMBARGO ON EXPORTS TO U.S. IMPOSED AFTER OCT WAR HAS BEEN LIFTED. WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TRACE SOURCE OF REPORT, BUT AFTER CHECKING WITH U.S. MANAGEMENT OF OASIS, MOBIL AND ESSO HERE, IT APPEARS EMBARGO REMAINS TECHNICALLY IN FORCE.

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LIBYAN CHAIRMEN OF MOBIL AND ESSO HAVE TOLD THEIR AMERICAN

COLLEAGUES THEY KNOW NOTHING OF ANY NEW DECISION TO LIFT EMBARGO.

2. THIS SAID, IT IS FACT THAT CERTAIN PROPORTION OF LIBYAN EXPORTS HAVE BEEN WINDING UP IN U.S. MARKET BY WAY OF REFINERIES IN BARBADOS AND ST. CROIX WITH FULL KNOWLEDGE OF LIBYAN GOVT. IN THIS SENSE EMBARGO HAS BEEN CIRCUMVENTED ALMOST SINCE IT WAS FIRST IMPOSED. LIBYA HAS OF COURSE HAD CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY MARKETING ITS OVERPRICED CRUDE THIS SUMMER AND FALL, AND IS IN NO POSITION TO BE CHOOSY ABOUT CUSTOMERS. IN PRINCIPLE, HOWEVER, EMBARGO IS STILL ON, AND WE BELIEVE LIBYANS ARE DETERMINED TO AVOID PUBLICLY ADMITTING ABANDONING IT.

3. IN VIEW OF ABOVE, WE BELIEVE THIS IS NOT RPT NOT GESTURE TOWARD USG, BUT SIMPLY A MOVE TO SELL MORE OIL. WE SUGGEST DEPT RESPOND TO PRESS INQUIRIES BY SAYING ONLY THAT WE HAVE HAD NO OFFICIAL WORD THAT EMBARGO HAS BEEN LIFTED. ANY FURTHER DISCUSSION OF SITUATION MIGHT FORCE LIBYANS TO TIGHTEN EXISTING STRICTURES AGAINST EXPORTS TO U.S., WHICH THEY ARE CLEARLY NOT ANXIOUS TO DO. THEIR OWN DECEIT AND STUBBORNNESS HAS LANDED THEM IN EMBARRASSING FIX, AND WE SHOULD NOT GIVE THEM PRETEXT FOR BLAMING IT ON US OR ON OIL COMPANIES.
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Message Attributes

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05 JUL 2006

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